

The Thief on the Cross

April 18, 2007

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Luke 23:39-43 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

SUMMARY:

This world consists of two kinds of people. The Have-nots and the Haves. The "Have-nots" are like the first thief who rejected Christ. They have not peace, have not freedom, have not Jesus. What they do have is eternal woe. The "Haves" have humbly accepted and responded to the Truth that re-unites them with a God who Loves them enough to sacrifice His only Son so that they might have Life. Romans road to Salvation says, we are ALL sinners, and the penalty for our sin is death. However, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. If we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, WE WILL BE SAVED! That is exactly what the second thief did. That's all he could do, and it was ENOUGH! He could say, I have peace, I have freedom, I have JESUS!

It's not over 'til God say's it's over. It's not yet time to lavish ourselves with the amenities of our new found freedom. As a "Have", there's still work to do. As we encounter Jesus at the cross, we see a man who is spending His very last moments on earth conversing with a "Have-not." In fact, Jesus spent His life living among the "Have-nots." We must resist the temptation of becoming comfortable in a religious environment. As believers, we must keep our gatherings open and accessible to the world, always striving to bring Hope to the hopeless.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: Are YOU a "Have" or a "Have-not"? How do you know? (Allow each man at your table an opportunity to answer. It's OK to have come here today as a "Have-not, but please, don't leave that way.)

-What can you do today to extend Hope to the hopeless the way Jesus did?

-Are you ever afraid to hang out with non-Christians? Why, or why not?

-As an organization like Huddle, what more could we do to make sure we are reaching the lost in this community?

APPLICATION:

Write down the name of a friend who is not a believer:

Now,

-Commit to pray for him each day.

-Consider inviting him to Huddle.

ON YOUR OWN...

Romans Road to Salvation....Romans 3:23....Romans 6:23....

Romans 5:8....Romans 10:9